

How climate change is affecting California

By Christopher Cadelago, Sacramento Bee

California could one day be uninhabitable. Fire. Heat. Floods. Infestation. Disease. Suffering.

Scientists have for years warned about the ravaging consequences of a warming planet. Decamping for the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Convention on Climate Change, California academics and political leaders were mulling how to better deploy the distressing projections to give unwary citizens a better understanding of what's at stake and compel them to see the wisdom of embracing sustainability.

"This is bad stuff. It doesn't get any worse," Gov. Jerry Brown lamented to scientists, religious and political leaders in Europe ahead of the conference. "The threat is profound. It will alter human civilization. It's not decades away. It's closer than you think," the Democratic governor added later.

Read the whole story

Liberty contending with outages, scammers

Liberty Utilities' customers in the Kings Beach area have experienced outages on and off since Nov. 9 because of NV Energy's equipment failure in the Incline Village area.

Liberty is taking service from NV Energy's feed to the Kings Beach area while its Brockway substation is shut down for repairs. Those repairs are on schedule to be done by Tuesday evening, at which time Liberty plans to switch back to Brockway sub for those customers.

Also, Nov. 13-17 is Utility Scam Awareness Week. Last week, two commercial customers contacted Liberty's office to report scam attempts.

If you suspect a scammer has called you in person or by voice message, hang up immediately and call 800.782.2506.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Brian Hogan is the newest board member for Lake Valley Fire Protection District. He will be filling the seat vacated by Robert Rossi.

- Veterans Healing Camp is having a flag raising ceremony Nov. 18 from noon to 3pm at the camp; 1775 East Highway 50 in Silver Springs.

- Douglas County libraries in Minden and Zephyr Cove will be closed Nov. 23-24.

- The National Commission on Correctional Health Care awarded Douglas County Sheriff's Office custodial facility of the year. This is out of more than 500 jails and prisons across the nation.

- Tahoe City Rotarians planted 240 sugar pine seedlings near the Granlibakken ropes course.

Shooting at SLT hotel ends in 1 arrest, no injuries

A South Lake Tahoe man is in custody after allegedly shooting a gun Sunday at the Tahoe Beach Retreat.

Timothy Althouse, 30, faces an assault with a firearm on a person. He has posted the \$75,000 bail.



Timothy
Althouse

The incident occurred Nov. 12 at about 2:40am just after a concert at the South Lake Tahoe hotel. Officers received multiple reports of a gun being fired.

According to officers, an employee of Beach Retreat followed the suspect to the parking lot of CVS, which is where officers located Althouse.

Officers said the targeted victim, who was not hit by gunfire, and the suspect know each other. What led to the altercation is not known. How many shots were fired has not been released. At this time it is not believed that anyone was hit.

Officers located a loaded .40-caliber semi-automatic handgun near where the suspect was contacted. The firearm was reported as missing to the Redding Police Department in 2015, according

to authorities.

Anyone with information is asked to call the South Lake Tahoe Police Department at 530.542.6100, or to remain anonymous, Lake Tahoe Secret Witness at 530.541.6800.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Top officials in El Dorado County getting raises



Don Ashton

El Dorado County Chief Administrative Officer Don Ashton is doing a good job, according to his five bosses, aka the Board of Supervisors.

This month they gave him a raise that will be effective Jan. 1. At that time he will be making \$227,676 a year, while today he is making \$214,926 annually. The electeds also extended his contract for another four years.

Supervisors also agreed to give appointed department heads a 4.6 percent raise effective the first of the year. Elected departments will receive a raise Jan. 1, 2019.

Tahoe Douglas boat like floating fire hydrant



Marine 24 is a custom-built vessel from Lake Assault Boats in Wisconsin. Photo/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – High winds and waves like the ocean couldn't budge the vessel. It was on a type of auto pilot. The boat rocked to the waves, but otherwise didn't move.

Mother Nature on Monday helped demonstrate some of the sophisticated technology aboard Marine 24, Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District's boat that was christened just off shore of Edgewood Tahoe.

"Skyhook technology is like an anchor. It holds the boat in

position,” explained Fire Marshal Eric Guevin.

This allows a firefighter to leave the helm and help with suppression, or rescuing boaters, or some other task.

It has touch point GPS, as well as sonar and radar that are state-of-the-art. Navigation routes can be programmed. The cabin is heated, which is ideal considering the boat will be available 24/7, 365 days. Plus, if someone is rescued, it means providing them a warm place out of the elements.

Special heaters for the bilge and motors will keep them from freezing.

It is powered by two outboard engines. There is also a 365 horsepower marine motor.

“It’s only job is to pump water,” Guevin told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The 36-foot-long boat was built to handle the variable weather conditions Tahoe can encounter. Even the seats have suspension in them, which is designed to save the crews’ backs.

It will be docked at Zephyr Cove Marina, practically across the street from the fire station.



Tahoe Douglas Fire Chief Scott Baker and Fire Marshal Eric Guevin at the Nov. 14

christening of Marine 24. Photo/Kathryn
Reed

There is no other boat like this on Lake Tahoe. Fire flow, or how much water can be pumped per minute, is what sets this boat apart. It can deliver a minimum of 1,500 gallons per minute. It was shooting 1,800 on Monday. State fire codes set the standards.

Lakefront residents or business may pay a fee for a pipe that firefighters would use to connect to the new vessel and pump water. Water can also be pumped into water tenders.

With many of the roads leading to the lake on the Nevada side being narrow, it can be difficult to get the appropriate firefighting apparatus to the structure even when there isn't snow. This is why the boat is so necessary.

The boat can also be used if the forest near the shore were ablaze.

Fallen Leaf Lake has a similar boat from the same manufacturer. South Lake Tahoe is having a boat built, and North Tahoe Fire is talking about getting one.

Tahoe Douglas' old boat is still around, but isn't expected to get much action. It has an inflatable hull, doesn't have fire flow beyond 300 gallons, and is cramped. However, in the last two years it has been put into service 17 times.

In large part the nearly \$500,000 new vessel was funded by donations from Lisa Maloff, and Bob and Nackey Scagliotti.

Wise working on original tricks for '18 Olympics

Publisher's note: *This is one of a series of stories about Lake Tahoe area athletes who hope to compete in the 2018 Olympics in South Korea.*

By Kathryn Reed

PARK CITY, Utah – “I want to do something no one else is doing. It is more important to be a pioneer than to do a flawlessly executed run. I look at what is not being done.”

David Wise's philosophy has paid off in gold.

The Reno native was on top of the podium at the Sochi Olympic Games in 2014 for halfpipe skiing. He won gold at the X Games the last three seasons. In February, he hopes to add to his Olympic medal collection.

“I have some brand new things that have never been done. I hope to accomplish them in the Olympics,” Wise said.

His approach to tricks has evolved through the years. He used to dream something up and immediately go try it. Injuries have a way of refining how one does something. Wise said now he is more calculated.

Now a new trick may take him a couple years to perfect.

“What I hope to do in PyeongChang I thought about in Russia. I've been chipping away at it,” Wise said.



David Wise is taking his family to South Korea for what could be his last Olympics. Photo/Kathryn Reed

He didn't get to the top of the free skiing world in a conventional manner. At age 12 he was in the top five in his age group in ski racing. But that wasn't what he was passionate about. He quit racing and wound up in the bottom five of moguls. His determination and skills, though, propelled him to this elite level.

While he grew up at Mount Rose Ski Resort, now he says he doesn't have a home resort. Today he mostly skis at Rose, Squaw Valley and Northstar when he is home. "I have a soft spot for Alpine. I know all the secret spots on a powder day," Wise told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Family is one of the driving factor's in this 27-year-old's career – parents, siblings, wife and children. However, being

an athlete takes a back seat to being a dad and husband. Still, skiing is his job. He's had to learn how to navigate sleep, travel, media, training and competing.

In Russia, he regretted that his daughter was not at the finish line; instead she was at home watching her dad on TV. And while technically he (and everyone else) has not qualified for the 2018 Games, the flights are booked for his wife, daughter and son. Wise admitted at the Team USA media conference this fall that this could very well be his last Olympics.

Growing up Wise's two sisters were always encouraging him to be who he wanted to be. The entire family is athletic. He credits his siblings for why he is not self-centered.

Wise is more complex than some of his peers. Being a family man sets him apart from some; his kids are 6 and 3. He's been a youth pastor, saying how faith is a big part of who he is. At one time he thought he'd become a pastor; that's on hold for now. He's written a children's book that he hopes will be available near the Olympics.

Opinion: Greatest story ever told about hyperbole

By Jennifer Mercieca

In 1835, Phineas Taylor Barnum was anxious to find an "amusement" to attract paying customers. One lucky day a stranger told Barnum that he possessed half-ownership of a "curiosity": a woman named Joice Heth who was the 161-year-old slave who raised George Washington.

Barnum examined Heth and the stranger's "proofs" about her age and provenance and, convinced of her seeming veracity, bought Heth from the stranger. Soon he was drawing crowds to see Joice Heth recount George Washington's childhood. Barnum also paid off newspaper editors to write up the story of Joice Heth in the most dramatic way possible.

Barnum's advertising strategy depended "upon getting people to think, and talk, and become curious and excited over and about the 'rare spectacle'." His tool was hyperbole. While P.T. Barnum is often remembered as the founder of a circus – "The Greatest Show on Earth"—Barnum's story is more broadly about America's fascination with hyperbole and humbug.

Hyperbole is the rhetorical term for "excess" (Greek hyper "beyond" plus bole "to throw," to overthrow or throw beyond). Aristotle thought of hyperbole as a kind of metaphor, a comparison between a known thing and an unknown thing. In comparing something that is unknown to something that is already well understood, audiences would make sense of new information by using associational logic. Yet, Aristotle thought that because hyperbole relied on excessive exaggeration, its users abused the power of metaphor and demonstrated a "vehemence of character." In the 18th century, Joseph Priestley argued that hyperbole was unjustly used to appeal to "persons of little reading" who were particularly attracted to the "very extravagant" or the "marvelous and supernatural." Hyperbole drew attention to itself, for the sake of merely drawing attention.

Which is why Barnum relished it.

For a time, Barnum writes in his 1855 "Autobiography," ticket sales for the Heth show were great and business was good and he was happy. Then disaster struck. "A Visitor" wrote to one local paper and claimed that Joice Heth was what the hip school kids of the 1750s called a "humbug." Specifically, "A Visitor" believed that Heth was "not a human being," but was

“simply a curiously constructed automaton, made up of whalebone, India-rubber, and numberless springs, ingeniously put together, and made to move at the slightest touch, according to the will of the operator.”

The attack on Heth didn't hurt Barnum's show; it made it bigger. Barnum would recall that “hundreds who had not visited Joice Heth were now anxious to see the curious automaton; while many who had seen her were equally desirous of a second look, in order to determine whether or not they had been deceived.”

Joice Heth passed away in early 1836, ending Barnum's show but not the nation's curiosity. Barnum took advantage of that interest: 1,500 audience members paid 50 cents each—double what audiences had paid to see her alive—to watch David L. Rogers conduct an autopsy. According to the Feb. 25, 1836, edition of the *New York Sun*, Rogers concluded that Heth was a real person but nearer to 80 than to 160.

But, Barnum had the last word. He planted a story with the *Sun's* competitor, the *New York Herald* on Feb. 27, 1836, which claimed that the Heth humbug story was itself humbug. Heth was “not dead,” but alive and well in Connecticut.

Why did Barnum's hyperbole and humbug excite American audiences in the 19th century? For the same reason that it excites Americans today: We love to be amused and we love excess, and so we reward showmen with our attention.

We're especially attracted to hyperbole during times of great transition, when things are confusing and reality can be more easily distorted. Barnum knew this too: His “A Visitor” exposé/humbug relied upon the nation's curiosity about the emerging technology of machinery, new commercial uses for India rubber, and new northern concerns over the abolition of slavery.

Today is another time of great transition and America's

showmen-leaders knowing it. During an election interview with NBC in 2016, Donald Trump said he had enjoyed being compared to P.T. Barnum. “We need P.T. Barnum, a little bit, because we have to build up the image of our country,” he said.

Ask yourself: Was Barnum and Bailey’s circus literally the “greatest show on Earth”? Of course not, that’s nonsensical hyperbole: But in a supposedly classless society like America, such confident appeals to American greatness via hyperbole attract audiences.

And we shouldn’t forget that “there’s a sucker born every minute.” Barnum has been credited with that phrase, but probably never said that. Of course, there’s a humbug that says he did.

Jennifer Mercieca is the world’s greatest associate professor in the department of communication at Texas A&M University. She is completing a book about Donald Trump’s presidential campaign and demagoguery.

Study: Over-the-counter meds as good as opioids

By Melissa Healy, Los Angeles Times

In an opioid epidemic that currently claims an average of 91 lives per day, there have been many paths to addiction. For some, it started with a fall or a sports injury, a trip to a nearby emergency room and a prescription for a narcotic pain reliever that seemed to work well in the ER.

New research underscores how tragically risky – and

unnecessary – such prescribing choices have been.

In a study of patients who showed up to an emergency department with acute pain in their shoulders, arms, hips or legs, researchers found that a cocktail of two non-addictive, over-the-counter drugs relieved pain just as well as – and maybe just a little better than – a trio of opioid pain medications widely prescribed under such circumstances.

Read the whole story

Nev. welcomes home vets from Honor Flight

By Sarah Litz, Reno Gazette-Journal

A hush fell over Terminal B.

People filled the seats around the gate and stood shoulder-to-shoulder waiting. The normally bustling Southwest terminal of the Reno-Tahoe International Airport paused Sunday morning.

The silence finally broke. Thunderous applause, whistles and people shouting “thank you” greeted local veterans returning from a trip to Washington D.C. over Veterans Day weekend. The 21st Honor Flight Nevada had 40 veterans on the flight including four veterans over the age of 90.

The flight is a chance for veterans to fly to the nation’s capital to visit their memorials free of charge, Jon Yuspa founder and CEO of Honor Flight Nevada said.

Read the whole story